

Remarks

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 29-56 were pending at the time of the Office Communication. Claims 39-46, 48, 49, and 50-56 have been canceled as being directed to non-elected inventions. Claim 30 has been canceled as being directed to a non-elected species. Claims 29, 31, 38, and 47 have been amended in view of the species election. Claim 31 has also been amended to recite amino acids 32 to 48 of canine proBNP. Support for this amendment can be found in FIG. 1B of the specification. Claim 33 has been amended to delete the reference to the monoclonal antibody. The subject matter deleted from claim 33 can now be found in new claim 58. New claim 57 has also been added. Support for new claim 57 can be found in FIG. 1B of the specification. In view of these amendments, claims 29, 31-38, 47, and 57-58 are now pending in the application.

B. Response to Restriction Requirement and Election of Species

In response to the restriction requirement imposed by the Examiner in the June 10, 2008, Office Communication, Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute the Group I invention (*i.e.*, claims 29, 31-38, 47, and 57-58).

In response to the requirement to elect a single species of proBNP epitope, Applicants elect amino acids 32-48 of canine proBNP. Claims 29, 31-38, 47, and 57-58 read on the elected species.

C. Response to the Notice to Comply with Sequence Listing Requirements

The specification has been amended to comply with the attached Notice to Comply, which was included in the Office Communication dated June 10, 2008. No new matter was added by this amendment.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-5654 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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